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DESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

•

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1955

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Desborough Urban District Council

Chairman of the Council :

MR. F. A. DIMBLEBY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

MR. S. L. KILBORN.

Clerk to the Council :

MR. G. GREAVES.

Members of the Public Health Committee : 1955-56.

MESSRS. W. MANTON (Chairman), E. BARLOW, P. C. BLISSETT,
F. C. DRAPER, B. G. FOSTER, S. L. KILBORN, H. W. TAILBY.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :—

JAMES CARROLL, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.,
D.CH.

also holds the appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Burton Latimer Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Corby Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Rothwell Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Kettering Rural Council.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS M. W. LANGLEY.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDSWORTH, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., CERT. MEAT AND
FOODS, R.S.I.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING.
June, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Desborough Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1955.

The Vital Statistics for the year under review were as follows :—
The crude birth rate 9.31 showed a fall on that for the previous year when it was 11.74, it is the lowest recorded birth rate for a number of years. The crude death rate, 13.36, remains relatively constant over the years. No deaths have been recorded under the heading of Maternal Mortality for sixteen years which must be considered very satisfactory. The infantile mortality rate was 21.74 as compared to England and Wales 24.9.

Section F. deals with the prevalence of Infectious Diseases. During the year there were seventy-two cases of Measles as compared with one case in 1954. There were two cases of Scarlet Fever notified. There was one death from Respiratory Tuberculosis and one new case notified. One case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was removed from the Register as cured.

Sections C, D. and E. of the report have been submitted by your Sanitary Surveyor.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued support and help and Mr. Holdsworth for information supplied for this report and for his ever ready assistance throughout the year. I should also like to thank Mr. Greaves and staff for assistance on many matters throughout the year. I appreciate very much the assistance received from Miss Langley in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CARROLL,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1955

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Area (acres)	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	4,690	4,883	4,910	4,940	4,940
Number of Live Births	58	49	76	58	46
Legitimate	56	48	75	54	45
Illegitimate	2	1	1	4	1
Birth rate per 1,000 population	12.36	10.03	15.48	11.74	9.31
Number of Still Births	3	2	3	3	2
Legitimate	3	2	3	3	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	49.18	39.22	37.97	49.18	41.67
Rate per 1,000 population ...	0.64	0.41	0.61	0.61	0.40
Number of Deaths	65	50	50	49	66
Death rate per 1,000 population	13.86	10.24	10.18	9.92	13.36
Death from Pregnancy, Child- birth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	34.48	Nil	26.32	—	21.74
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	17.24	Nil	—	—	21.74
Deaths from all forms of Tuber- culosis	1	1	1	2	1
Deaths from Respiratory Tuber- culosis	1	1	—	2	1
Deaths from Malignant Neo- plasms	13	14	6	10	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	2,400
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	4,940
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955)	1,640
Rateable Value	£25,237
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£97

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—Boot and shoe manufacture, Corset manufacture, manufacture of Cardboard Boxes and Rigid Containers, Ironstone Quarrying and Farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	45	20	25
Illegitimate	1	—	1
TOTALS ...				46	20	26

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	9.31
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STILL BIRTHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
TOTALS ...				2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	41.67
England and Wales	23.1

DEATHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
				66	40	26

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude) ...	13.36
--	-------

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected)	11.62
--	-------

Death rate from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	—
--	---

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	21.74
--	-------

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	22.22
---	-------

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—
---	---

Death rate from Measles (all ages)	—
---	---

Death rate from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
--	---

Death rate from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	—
--	---

Death rate from Malignant Neoplasms	2.02
--	------

Death rate from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—
Death rate from Diphtheria	—
Death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.20
Death rate from Influenza	—
Death rate from Pneumonia	0.40
Death rate from Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—

Maternal Mortality Rates for :—	<i>Maternal Causes Excluding Abortion</i>	<i>Due to Abortion</i>	<i>Total Maternal Mortality</i>
England and Wales per 1,000 Total (Live & Still)			
Births	0.54	0.10	0.64
Desborough Urban District ...	—	—	—

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1955 was 0.87. The crude death rate per 1,000 population for 1955 was 13.36 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.87, supplied by the Registrar General, gives a corrected death rate of 11.62. This death rate of 11.62 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Desborough Urban District were distributed in the same proportions as that of England and Wales as a whole.

England and Wales	11.7
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Births.—The following table shows the birth rate for 1955 together with the rate for England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1955

A comparability factor has been issued for 1955 by the Registrar General, which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Desborough and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Desborough	9.31
Desborough corrected by comparability factor 1.06	9.87
England and Wales	15.0

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1955

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and maternity and child welfare.

Desborough	21.74
England and Wales	24.9

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATES, 1955

Neonatal mortality is the number of deaths in children under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births.

Desborough	...	...	...	21.74
England and Wales	...	...	...	17.3

The causes of deaths in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
2 hours	F	Cerebral Haemorrhage. Tentorial Tear. Prematurity.
		P.M.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	40	26	66
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	—	1
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	2	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	6	13
18. Coronary disease, angina	7	5	12
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease	5	4	9
21. Other circulatory disease	4	2	6
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	—	2	2
24. Bronchitis	—	1	1
25. Other disease of the respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer and stomach duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	6

Registered causes of Death— <i>Continued</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	—	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	—	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and by the Laboratory of the Kettering General Hospital.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—The County Council is responsible for Ambulance Services. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**— The County Council is responsible for the Home Nursing Service.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice a month. A Medical Officer attends one session a month.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised in 1955 is as follows :—

Under 5 years of age	...	...	...	2
5 to 15 years of age	...	...	...	1
				—
TOTAL	...	...	...	3
				—
Boosters	...	...	...	24

The number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1955 is as follows :—

Age at 31.12.55	Under 1	1	2	3	4
<i>i.e.</i> Born in Year	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
No. Immunised	2	46	58	45	49
Age at 31.12.55	5—9	10—14	Total		
<i>i.e.</i> Born in Year	1946-50	1941-45	under 15		
No. Immunised	246	185	631		

WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINATION

	Under 1	1—4	5—14	Total	Boosters
Whooping Cough Only ...	—	—	—	—	—
Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis	36	7	—	43	27

VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year :—

	Under 1	1—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Primary ...	25	2	—	1	28
Re-Vaccination ...	—	—	—	—	—

My thanks are due to the County Medical Officer of Health for the above figures.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.—No formal action was taken during the year.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Report by

J. HOLDSWORTH,

M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., CERT. MEAT AND FOODS, R.S.I.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1955.

Water Supply.—The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board has maintained a good supply of water both in quantity and quality throughout the year.

Bacteriological examinations of the supply were made by the Board weekly and the results were very satisfactory. The water is very hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.

The whole of the population is served by the public piped supply with the exception of four farms which are a long distance from the service mains. About one eighth of the houses and population, mostly in the old portion of the town, are served by standpipes in the yard or at the rear of the houses. The water supply to the other houses is direct.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Two sludge beds were enlarged and under drained. One new distributor was erected which is working very satisfactorily, when the two remaining distributors are replaced conditions will be greatly improved.

SECTION D. Public Health and Housing Acts.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.—During the year 170 complaints relative to dwelling houses were investigated. Informal action was taken in each case. The nuisances referred mainly to minor housing structural defects and drainage.

In addition to the foregoing, 458 complaints were received from tenants of Council Houses relating to defects. In each case appropriate action was taken.

Public Health and Housing Acts.—Works under these Acts for the purpose of rectifying defects and abating nuisances has been continued throughout the year and the following tables give details of the routine work carried out.

(1) Inspection of dwelling houses :—

1.	(a)	No. of houses inspected for defects	...	170
	(b)	Inspections made for the purpose	... ..	170
2.	(a)	No. of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	... ..	—
	(b)	Inspections made for the purpose	... ..	—
3.		No. of houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health so as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	—
4.		Dwelling houses (exclusive of those under preceding head) not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	—

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

No. of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	175
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3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1.	No. of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	—
2.	No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit by owners or the Local Authority after service of formal notice	... ..	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Acts :—

1.	No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	—
2.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after serving notices	...	—

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	—
2. No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	—
3. No. of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	—

Housing.—Twelve houses were completed during the year by the Council. The total number of post-war houses completed by the Local Authority, all by local labour, at the end of the year was 182. Fifteen houses were completed during the year by private enterprise.

The Council had twelve houses and private enterprise seven in course of construction at the end of the year.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.—The house refuse tip and the sewage disposal works have been treated during the year at intervals. Both sites have been kept free of rats. No infestation has been noted in the sewers.

Factories Act, 1937.—27 inspections of factories were made. 2 unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences were remedied. The total number of outworkers in August 1955 was 61.

SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.—There are four dairies registered under the above regulations. All are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Meat.—There are three slaughterhouses in the area. All are kept in a satisfactory condition.

I give below a table setting out the number of animals killed, the number inspected and the number affected with disease.

The total weight of meat or offal condemned as a result of inspection was 8 tons 16 cwts. 3 qrs. 25 lbs. of that 5 tons 17 cwts. 3 qrs. 21 lbs. were affected with tuberculosis.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	1290	42	22	4834	2545	8733
Number Inspected ...	1184	42	22	4417	2325	7990
<i>All diseases except T.B.</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	182	9	—	96	84	371
Percentage of the number inspected affected with di- sease other than T.B. ...	11.99%	21.43%	—	2.17%	3.61%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	6	3	—	—	—	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	124	11	—	—	55	190
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tu- berculosis ...	10.47%	26.19%	—	—	2.36%	—

Other Foodstuffs Condemned.—73 lbs.

Fish Frying.—The three fish frying establishments were kept in a satisfactory state throughout the year.

Bakehouses.—There is only one bakehouse in the town. It has been kept in a clean condition. Up-to-date sanitary accommodation is provided together with a constant supply of hot and cold water.

Ice Cream.—There are no licensed manufacturers of ice cream in the Urban area. The number of registrations for the sale of ice cream is nine.

Clean Food Campaign.—Notices are continued to be displayed in all food shops requesting shoppers, in the interests of hygiene, not to bring dogs into the premises. These notices appear to be serving their purpose.

There are 32 foodshops in the town made up as follows :—17 Grocery, 3 Confectionery, 6 Butchers, 3 Greengrocers, 3 Fishfriers.

In conclusion, I would like to put on record my thanks for the continued help and support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 74 notifications compared with two last year.

Measles.—During the year 72 cases were notified compared with one case in 1954. With the exception of one adult, the incidence was confined to children in the 1—10 age group. One case was removed to hospital and all recovered.

Scarlet Fever.—Two cases were notified. Both were nursed at home.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

These regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1955.

During the year there was one case of Respiratory Tuberculosis notified and one death from Respiratory Tuberculosis. One case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was removed from the register as cured.

The number of cases in the register at the end of 1955 was as follows :—

Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Grand
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
9	12	21	3	—	3	24

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1955

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nove.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	14	51	2	2	1	—	—	2	72
TOTALS ...	—	1	—	—	14	51	2	2	1	1	—	2	74

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1955

Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65M	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	5	8	7	9	42	—	—	1	—	—	—	72	1	—	—
TOTALS	—	5	8	7	10	43	—	—	1	—	—	—	74	1	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1955

Age Period	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	1	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	1	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1955

Age Period	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	—	—	—

